**Proper Pet Care- Beginner Lesson Plan**

**Objective**

To help students understand that all pet dogs and cats have certain needs that must be met in order to keep them alive and healthy, and certain wants that will keep them happy.

**Materials**

* Crayons, markers or colored pencils
* Scissors
* ABC letter cards (printed as either individual sheets or with up to four letters per page)
* Vocabulary Assessment
* Venn Diagram: My needs and wants and a pet’s needs and wants

**Warm-up**

Ask students to name different things that dogs and cats need to be happy and healthy. Encourage them to talk about dogs and cats they may have at home and how they/their families care for them.

**Activity 1**

* Distribute ABC letter cards to the students. As you hand them out, hold each one in front of the class, say the word, and have the class repeat after you in order to learn the vocabulary.
* Have the children trace in the words and color the pictures.
* Discuss each item with the students and how they are important for pets.

**Discussion**

Explain the difference between needs and wants. Define the term **Needs** as something useful or necessary. Examples are food, water, shelter. Define the term **Wants** as items that a person/animal desires to have but it will not help them grow or stay alive.

Ask the following questions:

1. Do humans have needs, if so, what are they? (yes, food, water, shelter)
2. Do animals have the same needs as humans? (yes)
3. Do you have wants? (Yes, video games, new clothes, going to sporting events, etc.)
4. Do animals have wants? (Yes, walks in the park, a comfy bed, toys, etc)
5. Can animals tell you all of their needs and wants?  If so, how? (Yes, some dogs will scratch on a door to ask to go outside, cats meow when they are hungry, etc.)

**Activity 2**

Draw or display the Venn diagram Attachment One: Venn Diagram: My Needs and Wants and a Pet's Needs and Wants. As a whole class have the learners give examples and write them in the circles. The idea is to develop the concept that animals have many of the same needs and wants that humans have. Encourage them to brainstorm at least 3-4 items that could go in each part of the diagram. They can refer to the ABC letter cards for ideas.

**Discussion**

Explain why it is important to show kindness and respect to the animals we keep as pets. Ask:

When we feed and give water to our pets are we acting with kindness and respect? Have students discuss what other “things” pets and people need/want that cannot be bought at a store. (family love and attention including time, care, touch, trust.  Discuss with students if this is a need or want, and why. Accept all reasonable answers.)

**Wrap-up**

 Complete the Vocabulary Assessment with students (either as a class or individually) in order to check their understanding.

 Pose the questions : Whose responsibility is it to take care of the pets we have in our homes? Allow time for the learners to share their thoughts.